

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please amend the heading BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS at page 2, between lines 7 and 9 as follows.

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS**

Figure 1 is a schematic representation of a longitudinal section of a double shaft extruder of an apparatus according to the present invention;

Figure 1a ~~2~~ 3 is a cross sectional representation of double lead feed elements 18 along line A-A' ~~II-II~~ in Figure 1;

Figure 1b ~~3~~ 4 is a longitudinal representation of double lead feed elements 18 along line B-B' ~~III-III~~ in Figure 1;

Figure 1c ~~4~~ 5 is a cross sectional representation of double lead feed elements 19 along line C-C' ~~IV-IV~~ in Figure 1;

Figure 1d ~~5~~ 6 is a longitudinal representation of double lead feed elements 19 along line D-D' ~~V-V~~ in Figure 1;

Figure 1e ~~6~~ 7 is a cross sectional representation of double lead kneading elements 20 along line E-E' ~~VI-VI~~ in Figure 1;

Figure 1f ~~7~~ 8 is a longitudinal representation of double lead kneading elements 20 along line F-F' ~~VII-VII~~ in Figure 1;

Figure 1g ~~8~~ 9 is a cross sectional representation of triple lead feed elements 21 along line G-G' ~~VIII-VIII~~ in Figure 1; and

Figure 1h ~~9~~ 10 is a longitudinal representation of triple lead feed elements 21 along line H-H' ~~IX-IX~~ in Figure 1.

Please amend the paragraph at page 3, lines 14-16 of the specification with the following.

There now follows a detailed description of the invention with reference to a drawing illustrating an embodiment. ~~The single figure~~ Figure 1 shows a diagrammatic longitudinal section of a double-shaft extruder of an apparatus according to the invention.

Please amend the paragraph at page 3, lines 18-24 of the specification with the following.

The double-shaft extruder comprises a housing, which is composed of eight parts altogether and in which are disposed two shafts (~~not shown~~ 30, 33), which rotate in the same direction and mesh with one another. The plastic material to be degassed is supplied to the extruder through the intake opening 2 formed in the first housing part 1. Disposed in feed direction upstream of the intake opening 2 is a vent opening 3 (backward degassing). The drive ends of the shafts are led out-wards through a floating ring seal (not shown) at the, in the figure Figure 1, left side of the first housing part 2 1.